September 13, 1969

466 - 24th Street
Apt.#10
Oakland, California
94612

Pat Welsh,
Forty-Niner Shop
6049 East 7th Street
Long Beach, California
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Dear Pat:

I want to thank you for the phone call to me you made last month concerning your course on the JFK assassination and related matters. I hope that I was of some help in getting you started in your project and that you'll be able to achieve something of significance towards the final goal of getting at the truth of what really occurred on that fateful day.

One thing that I mentioned in my phone call that I would like to develop further with you which I didn't get a chance to go into in our brief discussion I'll discuss here because I think it can truly be of help. If you'll recall I suggested that you contact Harold Weisberg and invite him to speak before your group. You said that your group would be able to pay his fare expenses if you agreed to have him appear. I'd like to amplify on that because misunderstanding can result over details (I know, for I have arranged tours not only for Weisberg - several, in fact - but others as well) of such an invitation.

First, let me say why I think having Weisberg appear your group is more important than having other, perhaps more noted writers or critics, speak. I do not mean to say you should not have others speak but on a priority basis I believe Weisberg's credentials outweigh all the rest. If I sound like an advocate in behalf of Harold it is because in the three and a half years I have known him, both through correspondence and personal meetings no one is more sincere or dedicated to finding out the truth than he is. That is not to say that others are not equally interested in learning the facts in this matter but no one I know has done

so at such a great personal expense. Right now, although Weisberg could be considered a successful writer in that he has published four books on the JFK affair, he is about $40,000 in debt with no income becuase of the declining (almost now non-existent) market for books on the case. He has three or four works he now is seeking a publisher for and having read most of these when I visited him last year ~~each and that~~ all are of tremendous importance. These need to get into the hands of people such as yourself and the sad fact may be that they may never see the light of day.

I write of Weisberg's difficulties to enlist your aid not in getting him solvent or a publisher but in getting him to speak before your group. From what Harold tells me there are a number of people in California who are research-minded whose talents could be tapped if he were to meet with groups such as yours. I know, for in getting him to speak in the Bay Area I was able to bring together a number of persons he has maintained contact with through the years who have provided valuable assistance.

To sum up, then, if Weisberg is to appear before your group he would need to have the expenses for the plane fare(both ways) in advance. On his arrival to Long Beach all that Weisberg would need would be is a place to stay (no elaborate set-ups like Motels or Hotels for they are too costly).

One further thing that would be needed for the ~~appearance~~ appearance of Weisberg would be an honorarium. This is what noted authors and speakers get, anyway, but in Weisberg's case it would be essential. I don't know what to say about the amount of honorarium but I'll point out that Weisberg actually turned down an honorarium offer of $500 by a major lecture bureau because the net effect would be that he would wind up paying out of his own pocket and lose in the long run. I know that $500 sounds like a lot of money but if you'll analyze it you'll see exactly what I'm talking about. When writers such as Mark Lane speak I am sure the honorariums offered are much higher (besides the publisher of his book will foot his expenses when they arrange for his speaking engagements. Weisberg has had no such arrangement).

If these conditions sound harsh, Pat, let me just say that I don't think you'd be doing a more valuable service than in

following the guidelines I've set down. You may not be able to measure the effect of Weisberg's appearance immediately but in this case the history of it has been that slow progress in arriving at the truth is what will obtain. Apart from the Garrison debacle nothing sensational has come to light to "break" the case wide open. It is not the nature of this case to be that way anymore than there is a so-called "secret" to the A-bomb. If you've read anything of the literature in this case you know that to be the case.

One final thing I'd like to caution you about is Weisberg's appearances. Recently, Harold has suffered attacks resembling a stroke causing him to speak with a little difficulty. I doubt that this would impair his ability if he were to give one or two talks but I think it would be a strain if he were to appear on many radio and TV programs. Besides, it is Harold's opinion that the time would be better spent if he could meet with young students such as yourself than on radio and TV. You'll see why yourself when you meet with him.

I hope that you will be able to make arrangements for him to speak there soon. And about myself being invited as you suggested in your phone call I would agree to come down but if it stands in the way of having Weisberg be there I'd gladly bow out. It is certainly far more important that he meet with you than that I speak.

As far as other points you raised in your phone call: I have a list of tapes, records and slides but they are in such disarray right now I hesitate to send you a complete list of what I have. I'll just mention a few you might be interested in and when I can get the chance, I'll try to get a list of things I have together. On tapes I think the best way to get copies would be for you to send a reel (or casettes) and then I'll have copies made for you. I don't want to take the chance in sending originals throught the mail. That may pose a sort of problem with the slides I have but perhaps we can work something out.

In the meantime I want to wish you the very best of success in your class and if you need any further assistance let me know and I'll see what I can do. I hope you can write soon again and let me know of the progress you make.

Yours, in truth,

Hal Verb

Hal Verb